

Q1963

NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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TO: Mr. Norman N. Schiff, Corporation Counsel
FROM: Mr. Ralph Zinn, Acting Director, Newark Human Rights Commission

Newark, as a large metropolitan city with a widespread, but highly compressed Negro population is as susceptible to potential racial disorder as our neighboring sister-city of Jersey City or other eastern metropolises.

The underlying causes that set off public demonstrations that led to riots in other cities exist here and are perhaps more widespread than in Jersey City or Rochester due to the city's large proportion of Negro residents.

Our city has a population density of over 18,000 people per square mile which includes a Negro population of perhaps 200,000 out of a total of 405,000. In human terms this is fissionable in view of the wide spectrum of problems which is seen in the eyes of the average Negro citizen in Newark.

Methodology

The methodology employed to determine the areas of tension that exist in the reality of everyday life for the Negro was the following: Your Director interviewed a representative group of ministers, social workers, civic workers, and political figures, all knowledgeable of the conditions existing throughout the city.

DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The major emphasis of the survey was taken in the Central and South Wards as these two areas are potentially the most volatile anywhere on the eastern seaboard short of Harlem.

- (a) The Central Ward has long been considered the "Negro Ward" of the city.
- (b) The South Ward is an emerging Negro ghetto which is developing the same conditions which have existed for generations in the Central Ward.

In the South Ward there is extensive overuse of facilities. The population has increased despite the fact that the number of housing units and other facilities have not.

An open-ended questionnaire was utilized in an attempt to enumerate areas of concern. The responses were then coded into specific categories listed below:

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. The Schools | 7. General City Services |
| 2. Martland Medical Center | 8. Recreation Facilities |
| 3. Housing Conditions | 9. Urban Renewal and Proposed Highways |
| 4. Employment | 10. Neighborhood Frustration |
| 5. Police Brutality | 11. Liquor Sources |
| 6. Population Shifts | 12. Black Nationalism |
| 13. Recommendations | |

Schools and Education

The key to education is reading and comprehension and the facts indicate that the bulk of the Negro youth in Newark are far below National standards. In this crucial learning area, the average Negro

youth is 1.5 years behind his contemporaries. Taking the sixth grade level as our medium, this means that thousands of Negro youths are still reading at a third and fourth grade level but are in sixth grade due to so-called "social promotions". This can only lead to an inadequately prepared adult, most likely, one who has joined the increasing ranks of school drop-outs.

This causes **THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IN NEWARK TODAY**. It is from these aimless, hopeless, and helpless youths, in whom the spark of frustration exists, that the fire which kindles race riots can be found.

Physical facilities, no matter how new or modern, do not compensate for a teaching staff which is, by virtue of its high turnover and liberal use of substitute teachers, inadequate to the task of educating in an area where in-home encouragement is relatively lacking for learning situations.

Tables IIId and IIIf are statistics based on the Board of Education's city wide testing program for October, 1963. A close look at the statistics will indicate that the city's grade six reading level for "paragraph meaning" is grade 4.5, that "word meaning" for grade six is 4.9 and total average is grade 4.7. This is significant because there are five city schools where the reading grade equivalents are above the national average.

Evidence of the remedial reading program at West Kinney Junior High School indicates that students with IQ's of less than 90 have benefited **MORE** from remedial reading courses than those of over 100 IQ. The students of low IQ must not be pushed aside as uneducable without a fair trial.

The other major factor is, of course, overcrowded schoolrooms.

Table IIIb
Summary Table of School Medians Based upon
the Stanford Reading Test, Intermediate, Form K, and
the Kuhlmann-Anderson Intelligence Test, Form F

Grade 6

School	Code No.	C.A.	IQ*	K.A.	Total Aver. Reading Age Equivalent	Reading Grade Equivalents		
						Paragraph Meaning	Word Meaning	Total Average
1	11-5	92	10-7		9-7	- 4.3	- 4.6	- 4.5
2	11-5	93	10-8		9-7	- 4.4	- 4.6	- 4.5
3	11-3	100	11-3		10-1	- 4.6	- 5.2	- 4.9
4	11-3	101	11-6		10-6	- 4.8	- 5.7	- 5.3
5	11-6	93	10-11		10-0	- 4.6	- 5.1	- 4.9
6	11-4	95	10-11		9-5	- 4.1	- 4.5	- 4.3
7	11-4	98	10-11		9-9	- 4.3	- 4.9	- 4.6
8	11-1	112	12-6		11-10	+ 6.3	+ 6.8	+ 6.6
9	11-5	92	10-5		9-6	- 4.4	- 4.4	- 4.4
10	11-5	92	10-7		9-4	- 4.2	- 4.3	- 4.3
11	11-4	90	10-4		9-2	- 3.9	- 4.2	- 4.1
12	11-3	101	11-4		9-11	- 4.6	- 5.0	- 4.8
13	11-1	106	11-8		11-2	- 5.4	+ 6.4	- 5.9
15	11-3	96	10-9		9-8	- 4.3	- 4.8	- 4.6
16	11-2	100	11-3		10-4	- 4.9	- 5.3	- 5.1
17	11-1	101	11-4		10-4	- 4.5	- 5.9	- 5.2
18	11-3	97	11-0		9-11	- 4.6	- 5.0	- 4.8
19	11-2	108	11-11		11-9	+ 6.3	+ 6.6	+ 6.5
21	11-2	102	11-5		10-2	- 4.8	- 5.2	- 5.0
22	11-5	94	10-7		9-5	- 4.2	- 4.5	- 4.4
23	11-2	105	11-11		10-11	- 5.1	+ 6.2	- 5.7
24	11-3	103	11-8		10-8	- 5.0	- 5.9	- 5.5
26	11-5	93	10-6		9-5	- 4.3	- 4.4	- 4.4
29	11-4	94	10-10		9-8	- 4.4	- 4.7	- 4.6
30	11-4	89	10-1		9-2	- 4.1	- 4.1	- 4.1
31	11-3	95	10-10		9-8	- 4.3	- 4.8	- 4.6
33	11-1	117	12-10		11-11	+ 6.1	+ 7.1	+ 6.6
34	11-5	92	10-7		9-4	- 4.2	- 4.3	- 4.3
35	11-6	91	10-5		9-3	- 4.0	- 4.2	- 4.1
36	11-2	104	11-7		11-2	- 5.2	+ 6.6	- 5.9
37	11-4	95	10-9		9-8	- 4.5	- 4.6	- 4.6
38	11-6	97	11-3		10-5	- 4.9	- 5.4	- 5.2
39	11-3	95	10-6		9-5	- 4.3	- 4.2	- 4.3
40	11-4	93	10-7		9-4	- 4.1	- 4.4	- 4.3
41	11-4	100	11-5		10-1	- 4.8	- 5.1	- 5.0
42	11-5	99	11-4		10-4	- 4.9	- 5.3	- 5.1
43	11-4	99	11-3		10-1	- 4.7	- 5.1	- 4.9
44	11-6	90	10-6		9-3	- 4.0	- 4.3	- 4.2
45	11-6	92	10-6		9-4	- 4.1	- 4.3	- 4.2
46	11-6	93	10-11		9-6	- 4.2	- 4.7	- 4.5
47	11-4	98	11-3		10-4	- 4.8	- 5.4	- 5.1
48	11-1	112	12-6		12-2	+ 6.4	+ 7.3	+ 6.9
49	11-4	99	11-2		9-11	- 4.5	- 5.1	- 4.8
50	11-4	95	10-9		9-9	- 4.4	- 4.9	- 4.7
53	11-2	113	12-7		12-5	+ 6.4	+ 7.7	+ 7.1
55	11-5	93	10-8		9-9	- 4.3	- 4.9	- 4.6
City	11-4	97	11-5		9-10	- 4.5	- 4.9	- 4.7

*IQ medians are computed from school distributions and not from median ages.

Table IIIc
Summary Table of School Medians Based upon
the Stanford Arithmetic Test, Intermediate, Form KM

(The five schools participating in the Newark Plan are included in this table with their scores on the Metropolitan Arithmetic Test, Intermediate, AM, converted to Stanford Arithmetic Test, Intermediate, KM, grade and age equivalents.)

Grade 7

School	Code No.	<u>Reasoning</u>		<u>Computation</u>		<u>Total Arithmetic Aver.</u>	
		Grade	Age	Grade	Age	Grade	Age
	3	-5.3	10- 6	5.7	11- 0	-5.5	10- 9
	5	-6.3	11- 5	6.3	11- 6	-6.3	11- 6
	6	-5.1	10- 3	5.4	10- 8	-5.3	10- 6
	7	-5.3	10- 6	5.6	10-11	-5.5	10- 9
	9	-4.7	9-10	5.2	10- 5	-5.0	10- 2
	11	-4.8	10- 0	5.3	10- 7	-5.1	10- 4
	12	-5.4	10- 7	5.7	11- 0	-5.6	10-10
	13	-6.7	11-10	7.4	12- 9	+7.1	12- 4
	15	-4.8	10- 0	5.6	10-11	-5.2	10- 6
	17	-6.0	11- 3	6.9	12- 3	-6.5	11- 9
	18	-6.8	12- 0	7.2	12- 7	+7.0	12- 4
	21	-6.1	11- 3	7.1	12- 5	-6.6	11-10
	23	+7.0	12- 3	7.3	12- 8	+7.2	12- 6
	24	-6.6	11- 9	7.7	13- 0	+7.2	12- 5
	26	-4.4	9- 6	4.3	9- 6	-4.4	9- 6
	30	-4.7	9-10	4.8	10- 1	-4.8	10- 0
	31	-5.1	10- 3	5.4	10- 8	-5.3	10- 6
	33	+8.5	14- 0	8.2	13- 7	+8.4	13-10
	36	+7.0	12- 3	7.3	12- 8	+7.2	12- 6
	37	-4.8	10- 0	5.4	10- 8	-5.1	10- 4
	38	-5.1	10- 3	5.5	10- 9	-5.3	10- 6
	40	-4.6	9- 9	4.4	9- 7	-4.5	9- 8
	41	-6.0	11- 3	6.2	11- 6	-6.1	11- 5
	42	-5.9	11- 2	6.3	11- 6	-6.1	11- 4
	45	-4.9	10- 1	4.6	9-10	-4.8	10- 0
	46	-5.7	10-11	6.1	11- 5	-5.9	11- 2
	47	-6.0	11- 3	6.4	11- 8	-6.2	11- 6
	48	+7.7	13- 0	7.6	12-11	+7.7	13- 0
	49	-5.3	10- 6	6.1	11- 5	-5.7	11- 0
	50	-5.4	10- 7	5.9	11- 3	-5.7	10-11
	51	-4.8	10- 0	4.5	9- 9	-4.7	9-11
	52	-5.4	10- 7	5.9	11- 3	-5.7	10-11
	53	+7.2	12- 6	7.0	12- 4	+7.1	12- 5
	54	-5.7	10-11	5.9	11- 3	-5.8	11- 1
	55	-5.0	10- 2	4.8	10- 1	-4.9	10- 2
City		5.3	10- 6	5.6	10-11	5.5	10- 9

Martland Medical Center

"You have to wait 'till hell freezes over until you get care at Martland Medical Center", anonymous quote.

I would recommend a complete investigation of the facilities, staff and operation of Martland Medical Center.

There would appear to be sufficient evidence of low standards of medical care which has resulted in a widespread lack of faith among those members of the community who might most want to make use of the facilities. On the streets of the South and Central Wards, the medical center is known as "the butcher house".

Housing Conditions

Problems arising from housing fall into four major areas: (a) overuse of facilities, overcrowded conditions, (b) absentee landlords, (c) structural deficiencies, and (d) inadequate inspection procedures.

If the city inspectors were to diligently pursue their task and if the city were to carry out the Code, (a), (c) and (d) of the above would be resolved. At the same time, the overcrowding in our schools would be eliminated.

Unemployment

There is a direct and high correlation between unemployment and lack of education.

There are an estimated 10,000 unemployed youngsters between the ages of 16 and 21. They represent totally unskilled labor who, by virtue of their lack of training, cannot operate basic porter equipment such as floor waxing machines or any more complex automated equipment.

Adult unemployment follows the same lines as youth unemployment.

An example of this is cited by the Apprenticeship Information

Center at 1 Clinton Street (not to be confused with the Youth Career Development Center at the same address) which has apprenticeship opportunities with high pay going begging.

The market today for jobs is basically a "closed market" and this is affecting Negro and White alike, but it works more to the detriment of the untrained in the majority of cases.

One respondent, a Negro minister said that qualified people are not given the opportunity for employment. "Often they are turned down without a test or interview".

The Business-Industrial Coordinating Committee (which the Newark Human Rights Commission help found) has made a determined effort to open up job opportunities and upgrade presently employed Negroes. Our experience shows that the "blue chip" companies in the City of Newark and environs are virtually begging for qualified non-white help - not necessarily because they are civil rights minded but because it is good for their business. Equal for equal between a qualified White and Negro today, the Negro will be hired first by these companies.

Police Brutality

This is a difficult area of human interaction to define. Inevitably such charges must arise from emotion-packed clashes between police officer and private citizen.

As one interviewee stated "The question of brutality arises not necessarily from a determined effort by the police, in general, to forcibly intimidate the Negro, but from mishandling of various street incidents which lead invariably to heated feelings and tempers in the face of frustrations which run high".

"Brutality" is as much a question of attitude as it is of actual physical force applied in a given situation. The police

officer is an identifiable representative of the municipal power structure. There is a community feeling that the Police Department knows who the so-called "bad eggs" are, but does not adequately discipline them.

In the present Bryant case, a detective involved has a reputation of being a sadist. As long as this individual continues in a legal capacity, there will be anxiety coupled with anger. This individual is a personification of police brutality in the eyes of the Negro community. His involvement in the Bryant case was like a "cause and effect" relationship.

On the other hand, however, there is agreement privately, among some Negroes that the club is the only language understood by some of those involved with the law and that all necessary force be utilized to bring matters under control.

Decisions must be made by those complaining of police brutality that such specific instances be reported to the Mayor or the Newark Human Rights Commission. Since January of 1963, and all during the height of the controversy about the establishment of a police advisory board, the Newark Human Rights Commission has had only one official complaint, the Bryant case in July, 1964.

Population Shifts

Population shifts have been widespread in the city since World War II and have had a twofold effect:

- (a) In the White community, the city is no longer a desirable place in which to live or invest.
- (b) In the Negro community, the exodus of Whites upon Negro entry into a neighborhood creates a feeling of frustration, distrust and hate.

I want to point out that the real estate interests have manipulated the housing market in the City of Newark to such an extent and with such devious methods that prosecution under the Newark anti-block busting ordinance must begin at once and an ordinance prohibiting the placing of "sold" signs be placed on the books as soon as possible.

In most instances where homes are bought for \$100. down or less, the broker, to make the sale, exaggerates on the income of the family to purchase the property, including each member who works or can work as part of an income producing total which, if thoroughly investigated, would be found to be substantially below what the law requires.

The U. A. and F. H. A. take the position that if the financing institution accepts the income application, then they are satisfied and they usually okay the loan. The broker, in most of these deals, is working through a mortgage company which he controls and accepts the mortgage which he soon after sells, at a point reduction to another mortgage company far removed from this area.

This method has had the effect of bringing people into an area who cannot meet the financial responsibilities of meeting the mortgage and upkeep requirements of the home as they were led to believe by the selling broker at the time of the closing who also discourages them from having their own attorney by being told that the attorney for the mortgage company is representing them.

General City Services

There is a feeling in the Negro and White communities of the Central and South Wards that general city services are insufficient. The days are no longer with us when the city takes upon itself its inherent obligations to trim trees, repair deficient streets, place adequate traffic signs, enforce housing codes, without a concerted effort on the part of the citizenry,

consisting of letters, telephone calls, and finally petitions.

To add to this, in the South Ward there is a group of out of staters, of questionable political philosophy, who are rabble rousing individuals for the sole purpose to perpetrate a riot. This group is under investigation from the F. B. I., this Commission and Councilman Bernstein's staff.

They have already picketed the Fifth Precinct and the Department of Public Welfare, on two occasions, Friday, July 31st and Monday, August 3rd.

Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities fall into two general categories:

- (a) The need for all-encompassing recreation center, and
- (b) "Lots for Tots" or sitting areas for young mothers and elderly residents who are located at considerable distances from parks.

In the Central Ward which has the greatest concentration of population in the city (more so than, for example, Bombay, India) does not have a real recreation area.

It has no facilities for recreation programming for girls; no facilities for developing skills in baseball and little league-type activities (all play areas are asphalted); no facilities for tennis; no handball courts; no Board of Education recreation leaders on a full-time basis.

At least one-third of all families in the Central Ward have only one adult in the family unit. This creates a most unique problem because that individual is generally the breadwinner. There are no nursery facilities for these parents or for families which have two working parents.

There seems to be a total lack of imagination so far as the Board of Education summer program is concerned. There would appear to be a lack of realization that kids can learn as much in the summer in a recreation program as they can in a structured academic program.

Urban Renewal and Proposed Highways

Urban renewal is universally regarded by Negroes as an instrument of the White power structure intended to drive them into self-contained areas. The Negro too often finds himself pursued by the urban renewal processes from neighborhood to neighborhood or dislocated by a new highway. In an effort to remove slums, the Negro becomes a refugee between ghettos.

The irony of urban renewal is that it does not answer problems, it merely relocates them. Often expanding their original dimensions. The South Ward, of recent years, is an example of the mobility of a social problem in the wake of the bulldozer.

Neighborhoods are no longer stable in areas where the relocation process is emphasized. The White community in the South Ward is making its feelings known by simply leaving. In short, the ghetto is not eliminated, it is merely enlarged.

The proposed Routes 76 and 75 will cause a further ghettoizing of the Negroes in the South Ward. Other areas of the city seem to be practically off limits to the Negro movement.

Neighborhood Frustration and Psychology of Color

Neighborhood change (White to Negro) is synonymous with neighborhood deterioration. In many cases, the normal services of the city cease to function with the same regularity.

A twofold prevailing feeling based on the psychology of color breaks down to:

(a) The view that the Negro takes of himself.

(b) The view the White community takes of the Negro.

Insofar as the Negro, in a run-down area, sees himself on a cultural, economic, and physical treadmill, it is not surprising that he makes little effort to improve his surroundings. An image of inferiority and hopelessness is reinforced in his mind everytime he looks out the screenless window. Treeless, traffic-filled, tavern saturated, and drab surroundings are not conducive to community involvement.

There are, it cannot be denied, slum tenants as there are slum landlords. These people are cultural cripples.

Liquor Sources

The administration is to be commended for restricting the transfer of taverns and other liquor sources into areas that already contain sufficient number of outlets.

Black Nationalism

There is evidence to indicate that Black Nationalism and the Muslim movement is making headway in Newark and that groups of youths are not only being indoctrinated, but trained in "self-defense" for potential readiness in troubled situations.

James O'Neal leader of Black Muslim Temple 25 in Newark states, "We're not in the city to cause trouble, we're only here to build".

Recommendations

(1) The Mayor must see things firsthand. For example, a visit to Martland Medical Center's emergency ward would be illuminating, if not announced in advance.

(2) To interest private foundations in long range projects to correct neighborhood deficiencies. The Ford Foundation has.

(3) Create a "Youth Block Corps" in store front neighborhood centers for club group counselling and the training of leadership for indigenous youth of the area.

(4) Expand the P. A. L. in the Central and South Ward areas not only to help to structure wholesome youth activities but to improve the image of the police. A minimum number of police can be made available by relieving desk personnel with female or male civilian help. Although it would be expected that the relieved desk personnel be channelled for regular police duty one must not underestimate the long term value of engaging empathic policemen in youth work.

(5) Engage the total involvement of all people in Newark who have a sufficient amount of influence to change the course of daily events in the city. A united front devoid of personality differences would involve even those who may be against the Mayor's policies or future political antagonists. In this way, their involvement would not leave the Mayor's program open to attack during election time.

(6) In addition, the Mayor must sort out those who control large blocks of rental housing in this city, speculators and real estate brokers and demand from them that they discipline their selfish anti-social motives of exploitation or feel the full weight of the city and state machinery in order to bring relative stability to Newark's housing market.

(7) In the areas of the school - content analysis of children's textbooks in use in the city's schools, give the impression that we live in a "fair skinned" world. H. E. Wilson, author of "Intergroup Relations in Teaching Materials" and Otto Klineberg, Professor of Social Psychology at Columbia University, point out that in American textbooks "foreign nationalities and American minority groups are either placed in an unfavorable light or treated inadequately".

A 1963 census by the Newark Board of Education revealed that 70.2%

of the students in our city elementary school population are Negro. It would be advisable to utilize elementary readers that would give the Negro or Puerto Rican child a sense of identification and belonging in this society, by giving a more balanced presentation of American life from an ethnic and socio-economic standpoint.

Conclusion

This memorandum has been prepared by me, at your request in a matter of hours. The time factor alone precludes an intensive evaluation of the Negro's perceived areas of concern.

However, it should be indicated that reality is a relative matter determined by the experiences that affect the eye and mind of the beholder.

In reality, from my point of view, the City of Newark has utilized large percentages of its resources for the benefit of its minority population. Newark, perhaps, has done more than any other city of comparable size to aid those segments of the population who have been deprived, for generations, of the opportunity to become self-sufficient in all areas of American private enterprise.

For example, the City's Department of Public Welfare, which has the inherent obligation to support its families in need allocated \$2.5 million dollars to sustain those needy Negro and Puerto Rican families who comprise 75% and 15%, respectively, of the total welfare clientele.

In addition, our sixteen "Baby-Keep-Well" Stations, of which fourteen service predominantly Negro communities, cost \$126,000. to maintain in 1963.

In our City Hospital, with all its apparent shortcomings, of all the patients treated in 1963, 80% were Negroes who were treated at a cost of some \$4,000,000. out of a total cost outlay of \$7,000,000.

Our public housing developments, which have a total population in

excess of 50,000 and which were designed for the purpose of rescuing thousands of our economically submerged people, of all races, from misery, house more than 12% of our total city population.

In the area of school construction in the last ten years, the following new schools have been built in predominantly Negro areas:

1962	-	Belmont-Rumson
1963	-	Quittman Street
1959	-	West Kinney Street Junior High School
1958	-	Clinton Place Junior High School

Additions in the following schools were constructed:

1963	-	Avon Avenue School - New Cafeteria and Recreation Rooms
1963	-	Bergen Street School - New Cafeteria and Recreation Rooms
1962	-	Madison Junior High School - New Addition
1963	-	Miller Street - New Addition
1963	-	Peshine Avenue School - New Addition
1958	-	Sussex Avenue School - New Addition
1963	-	South 8th Street School - Addition and Alterations
1964	-	Montgomery Street School - New Addition and Alterations

This is all in addition to nine other new buildings and school additions which were completed during the years 1956 - 1964.

We must realize that these are only stopgap measures which must be carried forth until the Negro attains his rightful place in American society as an equal. No one wants to be obligated as a hopeless charity case. It is, therefore, of extraordinary importance that we, the City Administration, follow the 1963 Recommendations of the Newark Human Rights Commission to receive massive state and federal aid to improve opportunities in education and employment for young people so that Newark can get on its feet socially, educationally and thereafter economically.

Acknowledgments

I wish to personally commend Mr. John T. Barnes, Community Relations Specialist for the Newark Human Rights Commission, and South Ward Councilman Lee Bernstein for their cooperation in the preparation of this report.

